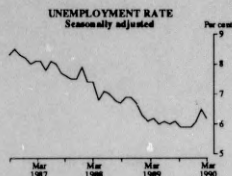


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 26 April 1990

The week in statistics ...

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Fewer people in employment — and fewer people seeking work

March 1990 labour force estimates showed significant falls in both employment and unemployment after seasonal adjustment.

Total employment fell 38,400 to 7,816,900 (seasonally adjusted). Male employment fell 22,900 to 4,597,400, while female employment fell 15,500 to 3,219,500 (with female part-time employment falling by 13,100).

Seasonally adjusted, the estimated number of unemployed persons fell, by 32,000 to 510,000. The main components of the fall were:

- ☐ females looking for full-time work (down 18,200); and
- ☐ females looking for part-time work (down 13,600).

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 6.1 per cent in March 1990. The unemployment rate for males was steady at 5.9 per cent, while the female rate fell 0.8 percentage points to 6.5 per cent.

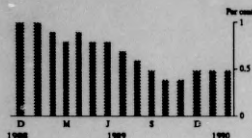
Trend estimates of persons looking for full-time work are increasing. For persons looking for part-time work, the trend has steadied in recent months.

The labour force participation rate, which has been at historically high levels in recent months, fell 0.6 percentage points to 63.1 per cent (seasonally adjusted). The male participation rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 75.0 per cent, and the female participation rate fell 0.8 percentage points to 51.5 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Particip- ation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total —'000—			
1989 —						
December	6,216.2	1,634.2	7,850.4	494.5	5.9	63.5
1990 —						
January	6,214.4	1,648.2	7,862.6	514.4	6.1	63.6
February	6,198.4	1,656.9	7,855.3	542.0	6.5	63.7
March	6,184.1	1,632.9	7,816.9	510.0	6.1	63.1

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.

MONTHLY CHANGE IN RETAIL TURNOVER
Trend series

Retailing remains subdued

Seasonally adjusted Australian retail turnover grew by 0.7 per cent to \$7,015 million during February. This follows a similar increase of 0.6 per cent in January.

ABS trend estimates still indicate that retail activity remains weak, recording 0.5 per cent increase per month for the three months ending February. As shown in the chart however, the steady decline in the rate of monthly increase exhibited since June 1989 appears to have levelled out.

The four major retail industries are showing varying growth rates in recent months, with hotels, etc. and department and general stores remaining in decline and grocers, etc. and clothing and fabric stores exhibiting identical rates of growth to the Australian total series.

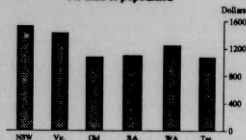
RETAIL TURNOVER

	Original value in February 1990 \$ million	Percentage change in trend estimates	
		Average monthly increase for 3 months to February 1990	February 1990 over February 1989
Grocers, etc.	1,835	0.5	7.9
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	852	-0.2	8.9
Department and general stores	582	-0.4	5.1
Clothing and fabrics stores	388	0.5	-3.8
Other retailers	2,517	— not available —	
All retailers	6,174	0.5	7.8

Annual growth (February 1990 over February 1989) in Australia-wide trend estimates remains moderate, at 7.8 per cent in current price terms. NSW (8.1 %), Victoria (7.9 %), Tasmania (7.1 %) and the ACT (8.0 %) are showing near average rates of growth, while South Australia (4.7 %) and Western Australia (6.2 %) are exhibiting weaker rates of growth than the national average. Only Queensland (9.6 %) is showing a significantly stronger rate of growth than the national average, but growth in that State appears to be moderating.

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)*, or contact *Maurie Low* on (06) 252 7442.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVT TAXES
Per head of population



One of life's two certainties ...

Total taxation collected in Australia increased by 12.5 per cent to \$106,600 million during 1988-89 with income taxes on individuals accounting for 45 per cent of this revenue.

Taxation revenue collected by the Commonwealth Government amounted to very nearly \$5,000 per head of population in 1988-89. State and local governments collected an average of \$1,358 per head (see chart).

Taxes collected by the Commonwealth Government increased by 11.3 per cent to \$83,340 million and comprised 79 per cent of total taxation.

Strong revenue growth was recorded by State and local governments where revenue increased by 17.3 per cent to \$22,267 million.

TAXATION REVENUE, 1988-89

Major types of tax	\$ million	Percentage change from previous year
<i>Taxes on income —</i>		
Levied on individuals	47,537	13.5
Levied on enterprises	9,991	16.5
<i>Employers' payroll tax —</i>		
General taxes (payroll taxes)	4,904	20.8
Fringe benefits tax	990	16.2
<i>Taxes on property</i>	10,141	19.5
<i>Taxes on the provision of goods and services —</i>		
Sales tax	9,402	24.3
Excises	9,634	-9.2
Taxes on international trade	3,783	2.0
Taxes on gambling	1,538	11.6
<i>Taxes on the use of goods and performance of activities —</i>		
Motor vehicle taxes	2,146	12.4
Franchise taxes	1,771	11.7
<i>Other taxes, fees and fines</i>	3,771	15.2
Total taxation revenue	105,607	12.5

The major factors affecting taxation revenue in 1988-89 were:

- ☐ strong employment and wage growth; taxes on income rose by 14.0 per cent and payroll taxes rose by 20.8 per cent,
- ☐ price rises and increased sales of real property; taxes on property to rise by 19.5 per cent,
- ☐ strong sales of motor vehicles and investment goods; sales taxes rose by 24.3 per cent.

The decline of 9.2 per cent in excises was due to a number of factors including the 1988-89 Commonwealth Budget announcement of a new single rate on beer, based on alcoholic content, which resulted in an estimated \$730 million reduction in revenue; and low crude oil and LPG prices combined with depressed output from Bass Strait oil fields, which reduced revenue by an estimated \$195 million.

For further information, order the publication *Taxation Revenue, Australia* (5506.0), or contact Colin Mitchell on (06) 252 6815.

Fixed interest home loans lead upturn in lending for housing

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments for January 1990 totalled \$1,536.8 million, an increase of 19.6 per cent on December 1989 but still 19.2 per cent below the January 1989 figure.

The growing popularity of fixed interest home loans is reported by banks to have contributed significantly to this increase.

Purchase of established dwellings rose by 20.4 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms to 16,907 dwelling units. Purchase of newly erected dwellings rose by 26.5 per cent to 1,022 dwelling units while construction of dwellings rose by 7.9 per cent to 5,195 dwelling units.

Trend estimates, published only to October 1989 because of the irregular nature of this series, flattened out after being in decline since May 1988.

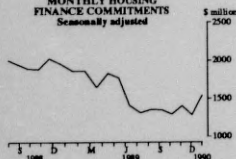
Not all types of lenders experienced large increases in January, as the table shows.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, JANUARY 1990
Seasonally adjusted

Type of lender	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Banks	1241.3	21.4	-21.4
Permanent building societies	136.8	2.4	-39.1
Other lenders	158.6	23.5	61.5
Total commitments	1536.8	19.6	-19.2

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact Derrek Pike on (06) 252 7117.

MONTHLY HOUSING
FINANCE COMMITMENTS
Seasonally adjusted



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

(06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Brian Thorp
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6917

Statistics Weekly
26 April 1990

All the releases: 11 to 24 April

General

Publications Issued in, March 1990 (1102.0; \$5.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., April 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)
Statistics Weekly, 12 April 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, Qld, April 1990 (1307.3; \$5.00)

Demography

Perinatal Deaths, Aust., 1988 (3304.0; \$12.50)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., January 1990 (3401.0; \$5.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, 1988-89, Summary (5201.0; \$12.50) — *final issue*
Foreign Trade, Aust., Comparative and Summary Tables, 1988-89 (5410.0; \$17.00)
Taxation Revenue, Aust., 1988-89 (5506.0; \$11.50)
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., January 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., February 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, December Qtr 1989 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)
Permanent Building Societies: Assets, Liabilities, Income and Expenditure, Aust., 1988-89 (5632.0; \$4.50)
Personal Finance, Aust., January 1990 (5642.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., March 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, March 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
Career Paths of Qualified Nurses, Aust., March to July 1989 (6277.0; \$12.50) — *new issue*
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., February 1990 (6312.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., March 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)
The Labour Force, Qld, February Qtr 1990 (6201.3; \$12.00)

Agriculture

Crops and Pastures, SA, 1988-89 (7321.4; \$12.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Industry Concentration Statistics, Aust., 1987-88 (8207.0; \$15.00)
Production of Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, Aust., January 1990 (8357.0; \$5.50)
Production of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, Aust., January 1990 (8360.0; \$8.50)
Retail Trade, Aust., February 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
Building Activity, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (8752.0; \$12.50)
Engineering Construction Survey, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (8762.0; free)
Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (8782.0; \$8.00)
Sawmill Statistics, Qld, December Qtr 1989 (8206.3; \$3.30)
Building Approvals, Qld, February 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, January 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)
Building Activity, SA, December Qtr 1989 (8752.4; \$8.00)
Tourist Accommodation, Tas., Licensed Hotels with Facilities, March 1990 (8646.6; \$5.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., February 1990 (8731.6; \$8.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., January 1990 (8741.6; \$3.30)
Building Activity, ACT, December Qtr 1989 (8752.8; \$8.00)

Transport

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Aust., 30 September 1988 (9208.0; \$18.00) — *final issue*
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., January 1990 (9303.0; \$9.00)
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., March 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 8 May 1990

April

- 26** Production Statistics, Australia, March 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
- 27** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, February 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, February 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- 30** Export Price Index, Australia, February 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, March 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, March 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)

May

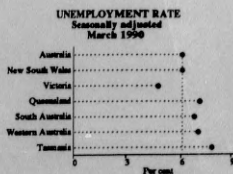
- 1** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, February 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)
- 2** Consumer Price Index, Australia, March Qtr 1990 (6401.0; \$10.00)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, February 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
- 3** Balance of Payments, Australia, March 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
24 April 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 89)*	15.9	24.8	15.2	0.0	45.4	-26.7	n.a.	n.a.	20.0
Retail turnover (Feb. 90) (trend estimate)	8.1	7.9	9.6	4.7	6.2	7.1	n.a.	8.0	7.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Feb. 90)*	3.1	10.8	6.0	36.6	-5.5	n.a.	0.5	8.6	7.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Feb. 90)	-27.2	-25.7	-28.8	6.8	-29.8	11.9	30.2	30.4	-23.8
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (March 90)*	2.6	3.1	5.3	1.3	2.8	7.7	-6.1	2.6	3.1
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 89)	7.4	8.5	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.4	7.5	6.5	7.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (November 89)	7.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	6.4	4.7	7.6	4.6	6.6
Population (Sept. 89)	0.9	1.2	3.2	1.0	2.9	0.8	0.0	1.7	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)



The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 24 April 1990

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	98,703	91,531	0.9	10.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	69,796	64,190	- 0.2	4.2
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	7,807	7,148	- 2.9	4.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,903	5,420	- 4.6	- 0.1
Expected new capital expenditure	— current prices	"	Six months to June 90	14,967	n.a.	n.a.	5.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Feb. 90	6,174	7,015	0.7	8.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	16,697	14,831	0.2	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Feb. 90	48,213	52,901	- 1.3	7.1
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Feb. 90	11,087	11,948	5.0	- 23.8
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,981	2,398	- 15.5	- 3.9
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	8,109	7,741	- 0.4	17.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,248	5,010	- 2.3	6.5
Manufacturers' sales		"	Dec. qtr 89	37,329	35,539	3.1	9.9
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to June 90	71,716	n.a.	n.a.	9.7
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	March 90	7,877.5	7,816.9	- 0.5	3.1
Unemployment rate †		%	"	6.5	6.1	- 0.4	- 0.2
Participation rate †		"	"	63.9	63.1	- 0.6	0.7
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	- 15.0	- 15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	- 8.7	- 3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 89	200.7	n.a.	1.9	7.8	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Jan. 90	119.2	n.a.	0.8	7.8	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	Jan. 90	559.8	n.a.	0.4	6.9	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	5,575	4,523	- 1.0	15.0	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adult; ordinary time)	\$	November 89	516.60	n.a.	1.6	6.6	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Feb. 90	16.25	n.a.	- 0.4	- 0.7	
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	13.30	n.a.	0.5	- 0.4	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Feb. 90	3,760	3,973	4.0	8.2	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,808	4,044	12.4	- 2.5	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	- 48	- 71	91.1	74.1	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	- 204	- 414	63.7	25.3	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	- 1,189	- 1,370	32.2	- 1.1	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 89	n.a.	108.4	0.6	1.7	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt (e)	\$m	31 Dec. 89	118,391	n.a.	6.1	19.2	
Net foreign liabilities (e)	"	"	158,848	n.a.	5.0	19.5	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A	Feb. 90	0.7598	n.a.	- 2.9	- 11.3	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	58.6	n.a.	- 3.0	- 8.4	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Sept. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.3	1.5	
Overseas visitors	'000	Jan. 90	176	184	9.9	6.9	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Thursday, 26 April 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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